

What is claimed is:

1. A fender formed from a rubber composition, wherein said rubber composition has a rate of change of compressibility  $R_{-30}/R_{23}$  of not more than 1.3 (where  $R_{-30}$  denotes a maximum reaction force at  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  as determined by compressive test and  $R_{23}$  denotes a maximum reaction force at  $23^{\circ}\text{C}$  as determined by compressive test) and/or a rate of change of compressibility  $R_{60}/R_{23}$  of more than 0.90 (where  $R_{23}$  denotes the maximum reaction force at  $23^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $R_{60}$  denotes a maximum reaction force at  $60^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).

2. The fender according to claim 1, wherein said rubber composition has the rate of change of compressibility  $R_{-30}/R_{23}$  of not more than 1.3 (where  $R_{-30}$  denotes the maximum reaction force at  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  as determined by compressive test and  $R_{23}$  denotes the maximum reaction force at  $23^{\circ}\text{C}$  as determined by compressive test), thus imparting the fender with a sufficient compressive energy absorptivity for functioning as a shock absorber in a low-temperature range.

3. The fender according to claim 2, wherein said rubber composition has:

(i) a rate of change of rigidity modulus  $G_{-30}/G_{23} < 1.38$  and 25  $\tan\delta < 0.07$  as determined by dynamic shearing test (where

$G_{-30}$  and  $G_{23}$  denote dynamic moduli of rigidity at  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  and at  $23^{\circ}\text{C}$ , respectively, as measured under the conditions of a frequency at 0.3Hz and a displacement of 2.5mm); and

- 5       (ii) a rate of change of elasticity modulus  $E^*_{-30}/E^*_{23} < 2.3$   
          and  $\tan\delta < 0.10$  as determined by dynamic tensile test (where  
           $E^*_{-30}$  and  $E^*_{23}$  denote dynamic moduli of elasticity in  
          tension at  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  and at  $23^{\circ}\text{C}$ , respectively, as measured  
          under the conditions of a frequency at 10Hz and a  
10      displacement of 50 $\mu\text{m}$ ).

4.       The fender according to claim 1, wherein said rubber composition has the rate of change of compressibility  $R_{60}/R_{23}$  of more than 0.90 (where  $R_{23}$  denotes the maximum reaction force at  $23^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $R_{60}$  denotes the maximum reaction force at  $60^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), thus imparting the fender with a sufficient compressive energy absorptivity for functioning as a shock absorber in a high-temperature range.

- 20      5.       The fender according to claim 4, wherein said rubber composition has:

- (i) a rate of change of rigidity modulus  $G_{60}/G_{23} > 0.9$  and  $\tan\delta < 0.11$  as determined by dynamic shearing test (where  $G_{60}$  and  $G_{23}$  denote dynamic moduli of rigidity at  $60^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  
25      at  $23^{\circ}\text{C}$ , respectively, as measured under the conditions

of a frequency at 0.3Hz and a displacement of 2.5mm);

and

(ii) a rate of change of elasticity modulus  $E^*_{50}/E^*_{23} > 0.7$

and  $\tan \delta < 0.14$  as determined by dynamic tensile test (where

5 E\*<sub>60</sub> and E\*<sub>23</sub> denote dynamic moduli of elasticity in tension

at 60°C and at 23°C, respectively, as measured under the conditions of a frequency at 10Hz and a displacement of

50  $\mu$ m).

10 6. The fender according to claim 1, wherein said rubber composition contains 20 to 80 parts by weight of carbon black and 0 to 20 parts by weight of softener based on 100 parts by weight of base rubber material.

15      7. A method for producing a fender from a rubber  
composition as a base material, wherein the rubber  
composition is prepared as an elastic base material and  
has a rate of change of compressibility  $R_{-30}/R_{23}$  of not  
more than 1.3 (where  $R_{-30}$  denotes a maximum reaction force  
20 at  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  as determined by compressive test and  $R_{23}$  denotes  
a maximum reaction force at  $23^{\circ}\text{C}$  as determined by  
compressive test) and a rate of change of compressibility  
 $R_{60}/R_{23}$  of more than 0.90 (where  $R_{23}$  denotes the maximum  
reaction force at  $23^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $R_{60}$  denotes a maximum reaction  
25 force at  $60^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).